

IN THE CLAIMS

CLEAN (UNMARKED) COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A method for providing priority to a peripheral component in a congested network, said method comprising the steps of:

A1

- (a) detecting an unforced collision of a data packet during transmission of said data packet by a peripheral component coupled to a network;
- (b) determining a restricted back off time, wherein said restricted back off time is substantially equal to or less than a restricted time value; and
- (c) causing said peripheral component to wait said restricted back off time before trying to retransmit said data packet over said network.

8. (Amended) A computer system comprising:

A2

- a processor;
- an addressable data bus coupled to said processor;
- a computer useable memory coupled to communicate with said processor for performing a method for providing priority to a peripheral component coupled to a network, said method comprising the steps of:

  - (a) detecting an unforced collision of a data packet during transmission of said data packet by a peripheral component coupled to a network;
  - (b) determining a restricted back off time, wherein said restricted back off time is substantially equal to or less than a restricted time value; and
  - (c) causing said peripheral component to wait said restricted back off time before trying to retransmit said data packet over said network.

15. (Amended) A computer readable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for causing a peripheral component to perform the steps of:

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- (a) detecting an unforced collision of a data packet during transmission of

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said data packet by a peripheral component coupled to a network;

- (b) determining a restricted back off time, wherein said restricted back off time is substantially equal to or less than a restricted time value; and
- (c) causing said peripheral component to wait said restricted back off time before trying to retransmit said data packet over said network.

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